



Department of Justice

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JURY CONVICTS COLUMBUS MAN OF ARMED ROBBERIES

COLUMBUS – A United States District Court jury here convicted Marcus K. Cobb, age 38, of Columbus of committing a series of armed robberies in 2006 and 2007. Because Cobb brandished a firearm during two of the robberies, he faces at least 32 years imprisonment in addition to whatever time he serves for the robberies.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Keith L. Bennett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division; Columbus Police Chief James G. Jackson; Worthington Police Chief Michael Mauger; and Upper Arlington Police Chief Brian Quinn announced the verdict reached yesterday at the conclusion of a trial before Senior United States District Judge George C. Smith.

According to court documents and testimony presented during the trial that began on May 15, Cobb robbed the Bucca Di Beppo restaurant located at 60 E. Wilson Bridge Road, Worthington, in the early morning hours of October 8, 2006. An employee was taking the trash to the dumpster when Cobb grabbed him from behind and forced him back inside the restaurant. Once inside, Cobb forced additional employees to the manager's office, where Cobb gained access to the safe. According to employees, Cobb threatened to "start shooting" if the safe was not emptied in 30 seconds. The manager placed the money in a chef's hat, and Cobb fled.

On January 26, 2007, Cobb robbed the Huntington Bank located at 1531 W. Lane Avenue in Upper Arlington. Cobb, armed with a silver pistol, approached an employee who was opening the bank and, while holding a gun to her head, forced her to the entry doors where he ordered a second employee to open the doors. Employees were then forced to remove money from the vault, placing it into a black bag Cobb provided. Surveillance video captured Cobb at the bank.

On April 12, 2007, Cobb robbed the Chase Bank located at 1500 W. 5th Avenue, Columbus. Cobb, again carrying a silver pistol, approached an employee at 7 a.m., forcing her inside the bank which was occupied by another employee. Cobb forced the employees to empty

at least one teller drawer, and subsequently gained access to the vault. The cash was placed into a black bag which Cobb brought with him into the bank. The suspect fled in one of the victim's vehicles, which was recovered a short distance from the bank. DNA analysis of a glove found near the victim's vehicle connected it to Cobb.

Once the DNA tests confirmed the glove was Cobb's, Columbus Police officers and ATF agents arrested him at his home on May 31, 2007. Investigators searched Cobb's residence and found clothing worn during the robberies. Cobb has been in custody since his arrest.

The jury convicted Cobb of two counts of bank robbery, each of which is punishable by up to 25 years imprisonment. The jury also convicted Cobb of one count of violating the Hobbs Act, punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment, by committing a robbery interfering with interstate commerce. The jury also convicted Cobb of two counts of brandishing a firearm during a robbery.

Under federal law, the first firearms conviction is punishable by seven years imprisonment which must be served consecutive to any other time served. The second conviction calls for an additional 25 years imprisonment to be served consecutively.

"This is a textbook case that demonstrates how coordination between federal and local law enforcement agents and officers can bring harsh penalties against violent criminals who terrorize employees of banks and local businesses," Lockhart said.

Judge Smith will set a date for Cobb's sentencing.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by the ATF and FBI agents with Columbus, Worthington and Upper Arlington police officers, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Bosley, who prosecuted the case.

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